

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

OFFICE OF ECONOMICS, ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND ADMINISTRATION

March 8, 2006

Ms. Martha Catlin
Program Analyst
Federal Assistance and Permitting Section
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 809
Washington, DC 20004

Re: STB Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 428X), BNSF Railway Company –
Abandonment Exemption – in Colfax County, NM

Dear Ms. Catlin:

The Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is the office within the Surface Transportation Board (Board) that is responsible for conducting the environmental review process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and related environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act. By letter dated October 12, 2005, and pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1) and 36 CFR 800.11(e) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, I notified your agency that the proposed abandonment, set forth above, may adversely affect historic properties.

Mr. Raymond V. Wallace of your agency notified me by letter, dated November 8, 2005, that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) did not believe that the ACHP's participation was needed to resolve potential adverse effects associated with the proposed undertaking, but that SEA would need to file the final Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the ACHP at the conclusion of the consultation process.

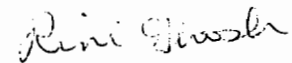
Subsequently, and prior to the development of an MOA, the railroad completed mitigation measures that the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (SHPO) believes adequately mitigates a possible adverse effect on historic properties. The SHPO also indicates that Section 106 consultation regarding the undertaking has been fulfilled. Accordingly, SEA has determined that the Section 106 process for this undertaking is complete.

Enclosed, please find a copy of the following: (1) SEA's October 12, 2005, letter to ACHP; (2) ACHP's November 8, 2005, letter to SEA; (3) the mitigation document prepared by

the railroad; (4) the response letter from the SHPO and (5) SEA's memo concluding that the Section 106 process has been completed.

If you need further information or have any questions, please contact me at (202) 565-1539.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rini Ghosh".

Rini Ghosh
Section of Environmental Analysis

Enclosures

cc (w/out enclosures): Ms. Katherine Slick, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
Mr. John Sims, BNSF Railway Company (via fax)